

**Claims 1 – 111 (cancelled)**

1 **112. (currently amended)** Apparatus for responding to a request, the request including one or  
2 more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a plurality thereof in a distributed database  
3 system that includes a plurality of database systems and  
4 the apparatus comprising:

5 a first database system of the plurality of database systems;

6 a query analyser that determines whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be  
7 interpreted in the first database system; and

8 a redirector which responds to the request when the query analyzer so determinesthe  
9 request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database system by causing the  
10 request to be executed at least in part in a second database system of the plurality of database  
11 systems,

12 the request ~~otherwise~~ being executed in the first database system when the query analyzer does  
13 not so determine.

1 **113. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 112 wherein:

2 the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained in at  
3 least one other database system belonging to the distributed database system.

1 **114. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 113 wherein:

2 the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose copies are  
3 included in the first database system.

1 **115. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 113 wherein:

2 the other database system is the second database system.

1   **116. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 115 wherein:  
2       the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database system.

1   **117. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 112 through  
2   116 wherein:  
3       the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing on the  
4   server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
5       the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1   **118. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 117 wherein:  
2       the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3   application program.

1   **119. (previously presented)** A method of responding to a request, the request including one or  
2   more specifiers that refer to one or more objects in a distributed database system that includes a  
3   plurality of database systems and  
4   the method comprising the steps of:  
5       receiving the request in a first database system of the plurality of database systems;  
6       determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the  
7   first database system; and  
8       when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in  
9   part in a second database system of the plurality of database systems.

1   **120. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 119 wherein:  
2           the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained in at least one  
3   other database system belonging to the distributed database system,  
4   whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose copies  
5   are included in the first database system.

1   **121. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 120 wherein:  
2           the other database system is the second database system,  
3   whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database  
4   system.

1   **122. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with any one of claims 119 through 121  
2   wherein:  
3           the first database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing  
4   on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
5           in the step of receiving the request, the request is received via the standard interface.

1   **123. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 122 wherein:  
2           the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3   application program.

1   **124. (previously presented)** A memory device characterized in that:

the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs a method of responding to a request, the request including one or more specifiers that refer to one or more objects in a distributed database system that includes a plurality of database systems and the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the request in a first database system of the plurality of database systems;

determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database system; and

when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in part in a second database system of the plurality of database systems.

**25. (currently amended)** Apparatus for caching copies of objects belonging to a subset of the objects belonging to a first database system that returns an object in response to a request therefor, the request including one or more specifiers referring to the objects and the apparatus comprising:

a second database system that contains the copies;

a query analyser that determines whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the second database system; and

a redirector that responds to the request when the ~~request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the second database system~~ query analyzer so determines by causing the request to be executed at least in part in the first database system, the request ~~otherwise~~ being executed in the second database system when the query analyzer does not so determine.

1   **126. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 125 wherein:

2           the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing on the  
3   server with a standard interface for querying databases; and

4           the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1   **127. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 126 wherein:

2           the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3   application program.

1   **128. (previously presented)** A method of responding to a request that includes one or more

2           specifiers referring to one or more objects belonging to a set of objects where the objects

3           are stored in a first database system and copies of a subset of the set of objects are stored

4           in a second database system,

5   the method comprising the steps of:

6           receiving the request in the second database system;

7           determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the

8           second database system; and

9           when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in

10          part in the first database system instead of in the second database system.

1   **129. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 128 wherein:

2       the second database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program  
3       executing on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and  
4       in the step of receiving the request, the request is received via the standard interface.

1   **130. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 129 wherein:

2       the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web  
3       application program.

1   **131. (previously presented)** A memory device characterized in that:

2       the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs  
3       a method of responding to a request that includes one or more specifiers referring to  
4       objects belonging to a set of objects where the objects are stored in a first database system  
5       and copies of a subset of the set of objects are stored in a second database system,  
6       the method comprising the steps of:

7       receiving the request in the second database system;

8       determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in  
9       the second database system; and

10       when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at  
11       least in part in the first database system instead of in the second database system.